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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note is prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/11, by which the Commission for Social Development was called upon to undertake a review of the functioning of the two-year review and policy cycle in order to ensure that that approach enhanced its effectiveness and functioning. Furthermore, pursuant to Council resolution 2006/18, the Commission is expected to identify the theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle. The note presents some background on the review of the methods of work of the Commission, and a proposal for the 2009-2010 priority theme.

* E/CN.5/2008/1.

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I. Background

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/270 B, requested each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

2. In February 2005, at its forty-third session, the Commission for Social Development commemorated the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, at which time its primary role in follow-up to the Summit based on the three core goals or elements of poverty eradication, employment and social integration, was reaffirmed.

3. At its forty-second, forty-third and forty-fourth sessions, the Commission for Social Development considered the reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/2004/2 and E/CN.5/2005/2, respectively) and a note by the Secretariat on its methods of work (E/CN.5/2006/5).

4. In its resolutions 2005/11 and 2006/18 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council decided that the work of the Commission would be organized in a series of two-year, action-oriented implementation cycles that would include a review segment, and a policy segment, and that the theme for the 2007-2008 review and policy cycle would be "Promoting full employment and decent work for all".

5. Focusing on one core issue over a two-year period, it is believed, would enable the Commission to go into greater depth by also addressing related cross-cutting issues, emerging issues and linkages with other issues relevant to the theme under discussion.

6. The Council also decided that the Commission for Social Development should include in its work a consideration of the nature of its outcomes and the inclusion of emerging issues within its programme of work.

II. Theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle

7. In its resolution 2006/18, the Economic and Social Council noted the usefulness of identifying the theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle during the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

8. In view of the fact that the Commission took up the issue of poverty eradication at its forty-fourth session and full employment and decent work at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Commission, proposes the theme "Social integration" as the priority theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle.

III. Review of the Commission's review and policy cycle

9. During its forty-sixth session, in 2008, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/11, the Commission will undertake a review of the functioning of the two-year review and policy cycle to ensure that that approach enhances its effectiveness and functioning.